

REPORT

OF THE

School Committee

OF THE

TOWN OF OAKHAM,

FOR THE YEAR

1873-74.

WORCESTER:

TYLER & SEAGRAVE, PRINTERS, 442 MAIN STREET,
Opposite the City Hall.

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REPORT.

The School Committee of the Town of Oakham, to the Patrons of the Public Schools.

DEAR FRIENDS,

You have entrusted the care of the Schools and the education of your children, in part, to us, and so have lain upon us the necessity of giving both time and thought to this all-important subject.

As we greet you again with our Annual Report we have to thank you for the confidence you have reposed in us, and for the hearty support and co-operation which, in most cases, you have afforded us, thus rendering our duties more pleasant, and the schools certainly not less profitable.

The character of our schools during the year has been, we believe, fully up to the average in years past, and in some of the schools there has been a manifest gain.

The disorganized condition of some of the school districts has placed the Committee at great disadvantage, and they have often felt that in the confused state in which our school matters now stand, it was impossible to make that advancement in our schools which might be made under a well-regulated system.

We are constrained to urge upon your attention, again, the importance of providing suitable houses in which to educate your children.

We cannot longer shift the responsibilities of this subject upon irresponsible parties without gross injustice to those who are dearer to us than all things else.

Let us take a right view of this matter, and let *no consideration whatever* lead us to sacrifice the time, the talents,

and the future well-being of our children, by failing to give them good houses, good teachers, and *all the helps* to a thorough education within our ability.

We cannot emphasize this part of our report too strongly.

It is of greatest moment that we provide comfortable, convenient, and cheerful school rooms for our children.

Let the town but say, *what ought to be done shall be done*, and we shall soon see very important improvements in our school arrangements.

Drawing is a branch of education of great importance, and one which is rapidly obtaining favor through this State. Our teachers must teach drawing, or they must fall behind the teachers in other towns; and our children must study drawing, or they will be deficient in their education, and incompetent to teach in the schools outside our own town.

At the examination of teachers for the summer term, we proposed a marking system in connection with a roll of honor. In a few of the schools it was successful, and a help to the teacher, as we hoped it would be; but so many teachers failed to out follow our suggestion that we cannot report as we intended.

Many more suggestions might be made, but as we think *work* will be more useful than *talk*, we will pass on to speak more specifically of each school. We earnestly solicit a lively interest and hearty co-operation on the part of the citizens in everything that will help to elevate the character of our schools.

EAST HILL DISTRICT.

Summer term. Length of school in months, 3. Whole number of scholars, 14. Average attendance, 12. Wages of teacher per month, \$26. Neither absent nor tardy—Hattie S. Henry, Mary B. Parmenter, Freddie H. Parmenter.

Winter Term. Length of school in months, 3. Whole number of scholars, 19. Average attendance, 16. Wages of teacher per month, \$28.

Miss Alice M. Hatch, of Rutland, had charge of both terms of this school. Your committee were rather negligent in visiting the summer term, and cannot speak of the proficiency made. We think the literary qualifications of Miss Hatch were good, but faithful, earnest efforts on the part of the teacher during the winter term would have accomplished more for the school. Whole expense for the year, \$168.50.

SOUTH DISTRICT.

Summer term. Length of school in months, 2. Whole number of scholars, 13. Average attendance 11. Wages of teacher per month, \$20.

Fall term. Length of school in months, 2. Whole number of scholars, 15. Average attendance, 13. Wages of teacher per month, \$26.

These schools were under the care of Miss Frances Hallowell. Excellent order was maintained, and fair progress made in the school. Neither absent nor tardy—Lillie E. Bothwell, Lucy E. Morgan, Addie E. Dean, David Hallowell.

Winter term. Length of school in months, 2. Whole number of scholars, 19. Average attendance, 16. Wages of teacher per month, \$30. Teacher, Ida F. Boyden.

There have been some trouble and disturbance in this school, but as the teacher has been successful in former terms we can but judge that if some of the larger scholars had remained at home, or known their proper places at school, some hindrances to success would have been removed. Neither absent nor tardy—Lucy E. Morgan, Emma S. Adams, J. W. Burns. Whole expense for the year, \$165.50.

WEST CENTER DISTRICT.

Summer term. Length of school in months, 2 3-4. Whole number of scholars, 22. Average attendance, 18. Wages of teacher per month, \$24.

Taught by Miss Ida F. Boyden. The teacher's health was

such that she was not able to finish the term, but we believe she made earnest efforts to interest and instruct the scholars, and there was evidence of good improvement. Neither absent nor tardy, Ida M. Holden, Maria Butler, Bessie Haskell, Farnie Thompson.

Winter term. Length of school in months, 3 1-4. Whole number of scholars, 27. Average attendance, 24. Wages of teacher per month, \$36.

This school was under the care of Miss Carrie R. Harrington, who has taught several terms in this town, with invariable good success. We have reason to congratulate both teacher and scholars on their success in this term. Whole expense, \$201.50. Neither absent nor tardy—Jessie Fairbank, George Butler, Henry Jenks, Jonas Shedd, Fred. P. Spear.

WEST SCHOOL.

Summer term. Length of school in months, 3. Wages of teacher per month, \$20. Whole number of scholars, 17. Average attendance, 14.

Taught by Miss Lizzie Hinkley, of Barre, who, though young, and in her first school, did well by her scholars, and bids fair to make a successful teacher. Neither absent nor tardy—Mary Fobes, Elmer Allen.

Winter term. Length of school in months, 3. Whole number of scholars, 28. Average attendance, 22. Wages of teacher per month, \$36.

Mr. Pratt was devoted to his work, and excellent order was maintained. We think commendable progress was generally made. Whole expense, \$190.76. Neither absent nor tardy—Mary Fobes, Frank Gaffney, Clayton C. Adams, Elmer R. Allen.

NORTH DISTRICT.

Summer term. Length of school in months, 3. Whole number of scholars, 12. Average attendance, 11. Wages of teacher per month, \$20.

This school was small in numbers. Miss Minnie L. Brooks, teacher, with her first experience. Miss B. worked well, and advanced the school to a fair degree. Neither absent nor tardy—Emma Barr, John A. Winter.

Winter term. Length of school in months, 3. Whole number of scholars, 18. Average attendance, 17. Wages of teacher per month, \$40.

Mr. Henry A. Crawford, one of our well tried teachers, has had charge of this school, which is still in session at the time of writing this report. Whole expense of school, about \$190.

COLD BROOK DISTRICT.

Summer term. Length of school in months, 1 3-4. Whole number of scholars, 25. Average, 21. Wages of teacher per month, \$28. Teacher, Miss Rosa J. Bullard.

This is a difficult school, and we think the teacher might be more successful under other circumstances. Neither absent nor tardy—Maida Parker, Nellie Coleman, Lizzie Haskins, Fred. Stearns, Harry Stearns, Charlie Haskins.

Fall term. Length of school in months, 1 3-4. Whole number of scholars, 20. Average attendance, 17. Wages of teachers per month, \$29.

Miss Alice M. Hatch, of Rutland, had charge of this school. It commenced well, but for some reason there was not that progress made we anticipated.

Winter term. Length of school in months, 2 1-2. Whole number of scholars, 27. Average attendance, 22. Wages of teacher per month, \$40.

This school was in the care of Fred. Holland, of Barre, a teacher of much experience. The school appeared orderly and diligent when visited by your committee, and the closing examination gave evidence of commendable progress. Whole expense of schools, \$219. Neither absent nor tardy—Martha Walker, Nellie Coleman.

EAST CENTER DISTRICT.

Summer term. Length of school in months, 2. Whole

number of scholars, 38. Average attendance, 34. Wages of teacher per month, \$30. Neither absent nor tardy—Alice Ayres, Allie Fuller, Carrie Lincoln, Jennie Lincoln, Hattie Morse, Emma Robinson, Lillie Robinson, Winnie Ayres, Willie Fuller, Willie Lincoln, D. Oscar Lovell, Alfred Morse, Eddie Morse, Timothy McCarthy.

Fall term. Length of school in months, 1 1-2. Whole number of scholars, 41. Average attendance, 34. Wages of teacher per month, \$30.

Miss Carrie R. Harrington, teacher for both terms. Miss Harrington has continued to deserve and to retain the confidence and esteem of your Committee, while her long connection with the school has enabled her to accomplish more than a stranger of equal accomplishments could have done. Neither absent nor tardy—Alice Ayres, Lillie Crawford, Mattie Dean, Hattie Morse, Emma Robinson, Lillie Robinson, Myrtie Wilbur, Frank Ayres, Winnie Ayres, Willie Fuller, Willie Lincoln, D. Oscar Lovell, Timothy McCarthy, Alfred Morse, Frank Packard, Geo. Lovell, Frank Burt.

Winter term. Length of school in months, 2 1-2. Whole number of scholars, 49. Average attendance, 45. Wages of teacher per month, \$40.

This school was taught by Horace W. Lincoln. The number of scholars was very large for an ungraded school, to be cared for by one teacher. The fact that nearly all the scholars studied mental arithmetic was particularly gratifying. The large number of friends present at the closing examination showed a deep interest in the school.

L. P. L.

REV. C. D. R. M.

Whole expense of the year, \$226.44. Neither absent nor tardy—Frank O. Ayres, Winnie Ayres, Frank E. Burt, Tim. McCarthy, Walter R. Dean, Willie C. Fuller, D. O. Lovell, Willie H. Lincoln, Geo. H. Lincoln, Frank K. Packard, Willie

L. Read, Alice W. Ayres, Lillie E. Crawford, Mary E. Gleason, Ellen L. Haskell, Jennie M. Mandell, Mary J. Robinson.

Expense of all the schools for the year, \$1,361.70.

The town appropriated \$1,200. We received \$130.90 from the State fund. Whole number of scholars in the schools in summer, 141; in winter, 187. Average in summer, 130; in winter, 160. The Assessors reported May 1st, 1873, 172 children between the ages of 5 and 15.

Respectfully submitted,

L. P. LOVELL,

H. W. LINCOLN.

C. D. R. MEACHAM.



